

FISCAL IMPACT OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Measure: HB 2691 - 3

81st Oregon Legislative Assembly – 2021 Regular Session
Legislative Fiscal Office*Only Impacts on Original or Engrossed
Versions are Considered Official*Prepared by: Haylee Morse-Miller
Reviewed by: Doug Wilson, John Terpening
Date: April 6, 2021**Measure Description:**

Directs State Department of Energy to conduct study to identify techniques to increase visibility to birds of rotor blades on wind energy facilities and evaluate suitability of techniques for use in Oregon.

Government Unit(s) Affected:

Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), Department of Energy (DOE)

Summary of Fiscal Impact:

Costs related to the measure may require budgetary action - See analysis.

Summary of Expenditure Impact:

	2021-23 Biennium	2023-25 Biennium
General Fund	\$427,083	\$109,729
Total Funds	\$427,083	\$109,729
Positions	0	0
FTE	0.00	0.00

Analysis:

HB 2691 - 3 directs Oregon State University (OSU), in consultation with the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), to conduct a study on wind energy facilities. The study is to focus on techniques for painting wind energy facilities in order to prevent bird deaths, and how these techniques may be used in Oregon. OSU is to provide a report to the interim committees of the Legislative Assembly related to agriculture and natural resources no later than September 15, 2025.

OSU anticipates total costs of at least \$277,083 General Fund in 2021-23 to conduct this study. These costs are related to salaries and benefits for researchers, as well as costs for contractors to process bird samples, and travel expenses. There is an additional cost of \$150,000 General Fund if OSU must pay the full cost of painting turbine blades as part of this study. This cost estimate assumes that 20 turbines will be painted at a cost of \$7,500 each.

Costs for completion of the study in the 2023-25 biennium are estimated at \$109,729 General Fund.

There is a minimal fiscal impact for ODOE, though ODOE notes that some staff time will be required to work on this study, and this work will be conducted by existing staff and funded by the Energy Supplier Assessment.

This measure warrants a subsequent referral to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for consideration of its budgetary impact.